



Mishawaka Communicator



Working together to build the "Best Hometown in America" by delivering exceptional services, promoting safe and clean neighborhoods, elevating the quality of life, and inspiring pride in our community.

Dave Wood, Mayor

www.mishawaka.in.gov

February 2015

A Letter from Mayor Dave Wood



If you have lived in the City of Mishawaka your entire life like me, you understand the unpredictable nature of the weather from November to March. I personally have always loved the change of seasons and especially the large amount of snow that winter brings Northern Indiana. With the winter season comes unique opportunities to enjoy the outdoor activities made available by snowfall. Sledding at George Wilson Park is a particular favorite for my family and me. Though I have loved snow since I was a kid, I look at it much differently these days. Winter weather, particularly the lake effect snow, can present a unique challenge for the City of Mishawaka.

One item that I know is of particular concern to our citizens during the winter months is the removal of snow. There are 170 miles of streets in our City that have to be plowed and maintained. We have a dedicated group of employees in our Central Services/Street Department Division that have the task of making the streets of Mishawaka as safe as possible during inclement weather. This dedicated group of employees takes great pride in the way that they maintain the public right-of-ways. They understand that all aspects of travel in our City are affected by the snow and ice on the public rights-of-way and I feel that the job they do of clearing snow from these areas is second to none. They are also responsible for the many miles of sidewalks in our city parks and city-owned property. We get a lot of calls in my office about our snow plowing efforts so I would like to share information with you so that everyone can understand the workings of the snow removal process in the Princess City.

Plow Routes: The streets are plowed and salted in order of priority and each street can take 4-8 passes depending on the width. Main roads are addressed first with special attention to steep hills and difficult intersections. Side streets are done next and then dead-end streets and cul-de-sacs are cleared. During an extremely heavy snowfall, main arteries will be kept open and are the first priority. Our goal is to have all City streets open and passible within 24 hours of a snow event.

Blocked Driveways and Sidewalks: Snow plows angle the same way...to the driver's right. The plow is designed to throw snow away from the truck and when going by, they will push the snow in front

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Signs Of A Heart Attack

Health Information from Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center

Call 911 quickly when experiencing symptoms of heart attack!

When someone is having a heart attack, time is critical. Every minute treatment is delayed can mean lost heart muscle and permanent damage. Paramedics and hospitals are set up to act quickly in this situation, but you can take steps to get treatment sooner when you or someone you love is experiencing symptoms of a heart attack. The time period after you feel symptoms but before getting help — especially within the first hour of feeling symptoms — is the most important because it offers the greatest opportunity to save lives. The best way to do that is to call 911.

Learn to recognize the symptoms of heart attack, which can be different for men and women.

Men

- Pressure in the mid-chest — uncomfortable pressure, squeezing, fullness or pain
- Tightness or heaviness that may radiate to either arm, neck, back or upper abdomen
- Shortness of breath
- Nausea, vomiting, cold sweat or fainting

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UPCOMING EVENTS!

Feb 13	Grandparent & Me Valentine's Party 2:30pm (Battell Center)
Feb 14	Couples Ice Skate 4:30-9pm (Merrifield Ice Rink)
Feb 28	Daddy Daughter Dance - 7-9pm (Mishawaka FOP)
Apr 11	Dances for a Festive Night
Apr 12	Michiana Concert Band Spring Concert
Apr 29	Youth Classes' Showcase

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

Beginning January 23rd, IRS-certified VITA tax preparers will prepare and e-file your taxes for FREE!

CALL 2-1-1 to schedule your appointment or schedule online at www.uwsjc.org/vita.html

ONLINE ACCESS

The City of Mishawaka maintains an online presence and can be found on the web at <http://mishawaka.in.gov>.

Find us on Facebook at <http://facebook.com/cityofmishawaka>

Remember, the current issue of the Mishawaka Communicator is always available as of the 1st of every month at <http://mishawaka.in.gov/communicator>

A Letter from Mayor Dave Wood *(continued)*

of a driveway and onto sidewalks. This is an unfortunate side effect of plowing. Priority is given to keeping streets open so that emergency vehicles can get through and motorists can get to work, school or medical appointments. Sometimes roads are plowed often in which case a plow may throw snow back upon a freshly shoveled walk. Understand that this is not our intention but rather a consequence of keeping roads clear. Each homeowner is responsible for access to their driveway and sidewalk.

Sidewalks: There are thousands of miles of sidewalks in the City and we simply don't have the manpower or the equipment to shovel them all. Per City ordinance, property owners are responsible for removing snow and ice from the sidewalk along their property line within 24 hours after the storm and keep the sidewalks clear of snow and ice. This is especially important because School City of Mishawaka does not provide bus service meaning that many students walk to and from school in Mishawaka.

Private Plowing: The city prohibits private contractors or residents from pushing or blowing snow from driveways, parking lots or sidewalks onto city streets. This is a dangerous practice that can cause damage to property and infrastructure and impede the City's snow removal efforts.

Speed: Snow plows need to maintain a speed of 15-20 miles per hour to maintain momentum of the truck on slick surfaces while pushing heavy snow. Depending on the type and depth of snow, speeds may increase. Speed cannot be judged by the sound of our trucks alone. Modern dump trucks with undercarriage plows are equipped with efficient diesel engines with turbo chargers, clutch fans and an array of electronic devices that cycle on and off during operation making them sound like they are going much faster than they actually are.

On-Street Parking: During a snow event it is recommended that vehicles be placed in driveways during snow removal operations. This will allow the drivers to plow back to the curb and avoid coming back to clean the areas where parked cars have sat. We will make all efforts to clear as much snow as possible, this may mean coming back through neighborhoods to hit areas where cars have moved. Our drivers are mandated to plow curb to curb to make room for future snow.

Hopefully this information will help in understanding our snow removal process and answers some of the questions that we hear from our citizens during the winter season. We strive to provide world-class service to the community in all that we do, and snow removal is a top priority of Street Commissioner Tim Ryan and mine. Let's hope that this winter is a little kinder to us and that we don't have a repeat of the winter of 2014. Rest assured that no matter what Mother Nature throws at us, we are up to the challenge and will respond with the same great service that you have become accustomed to.

Mayor Dave Wood



Signs Of A Heart Attack *(cont.)*

Women

- Pressure in the mid-chest, tightness or heaviness, but not always
- Continued discomfort in arms, jaw, upper abdomen or mid-back
- May be accompanied by nausea, dizziness, shortness of breath, sweating or fainting

If you or anyone experiences any of these symptoms, calling 911 as soon as possible will greatly reduce the time between the onset of symptoms and treatment at the hospital and reduce the risk of complications from heart attack. Many think it's faster to drive to the emergency room however, on average, patients who arrive by ambulance have their blockage opened faster. Calling 911 also eliminates the risk of going into cardiac arrest while in the car, which can endanger you and others.

February is American Heart Month, so be prepared to take action and do the most for your heart.



Government In Action

The City of Mishawaka has received the Certificate of Excellence Safety Award from BITCO Insurance for the policy period of July 1, 2013 - July 1, 2014. Steve Zachert, Risk Control Consultant from BITCO Insurance, presented the Award to Mayor David Wood and the City's Safety Director Josh Callendar on Wednesday, January 14, 2015.

The criteria for the Award necessitates, over the policy period, at least \$30,000 in workers compensation premiums, an effective, documented safety program in place, and a workers compensation loss ratio under 25%. The loss ratio for the City during the policy period was 12.7%.

"The City started a Return-To-Work program in 2010 and this has had a very positive effect on loss frequency," commented Zachert. "This is the first safety award that the City of Mishawaka has earned in the 10 years of coverage by BITCO Insurance. Congratulations on this outstanding accomplishment!"



(l-r): Mayor David Wood; Steve Zachert, BITCO Insurance; Josh Callendar, Safety Director.

